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SERVICE

NEWS

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October 31, 1941

No. 24



The Regional Defense Committee of Region 3 reports some interesting activity out Amarillo way. SCS folk down there are responding to Uncle Sam's call for "all-out" cooperation for national defense in a mighty encouraging way. By way of exchanging ideas, we're giving you the Region 3 report, and we hope each regional defense committee will send us a similar summary. We'll print them in this column, first come, first served. Here's the report from Region 3:

"In a recent issue of 'Service News' we read about the commendable showing that the Washington office is making in the National Defense bond and stamp sale. Since we haven't seen anything in the publication about the regional offices and field offices of the Service in this respect, we thought it proper to lead off.

"On September 30, of the 135 employees of the regional office at Amarillo, 94 percent had bought defense bonds or stamps, or both. \$4,931.25 worth of bonds had been purchased and \$1,330.05 worth of stamps, for a total of \$6,311.30. The average amount bought by each of the 135 participating employees was \$40.71.

"While we are writing about National Defense activities, we should like to men-

tion that 36 employees, their husbands or wives, took the Red Cross first aid course and 31 of them completed the course and received the Red Cross certificate. Members of the Service were prominent in the aluminum drive in the city of Amarillo. One of the Service employees was responsible for contacting all the machine shops, railroads, commercial airlines, and garages for scrap aluminum and cooperated with the Boy Scouts in collecting the aluminum which such establishments donated. A receptacle is maintained in the hall of the office building for small donations of tinfoil, aluminum foil, and other critical metals needed in the National Defense Program.

"Beginning June 16, the employees of this office held five weekly panel discussions about National Defense, with an average attendance of 85 at each meeting. Such subjects as, 'What Are We Defending', 'Let's Appraise Our Progress', 'Bottle-necks in Defense', and a debate on the subject, 'Resolved That the United States Should Immediately Use Its Armed Forces in an All-Out Effort to Defeat the Axis Powers' created great interest among employees.

"After July 15 the weekly panel discussions have been held occasionally, and are now being held on a bi-monthly basis.

"The USO drive in the Amarillo SCS office netted \$120.00. And, of course this office has put out instructions to the field about the inclusion of farm gardens as a standard qualification on all farm plans in order to provide food for defense.

(Continued on page 3)

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ABOUT DEFENSE



You'll be seeing this often from now on. It's the symbol adopted by the Department for the defense food production program

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In a radio address on Oct. 15, Secretary Wickard said: "We are bolstering the British barrier against Naziism, with guns, and planes, and tanks. But no less important, we are bolstering it with food--rich, nourishing food-- to strengthen the men who will use the guns and planes and tanks. and to strengthen the civilians, who in modern warfare really are part of the fighting forces. And don't overlook the importance of the food reserves we intend to build up--reserves earmarked for the people of the conquered countries when the yoke of Hitlerism is finally thrown off. With the passing of each day, the strategic importance of food in this conflict becomes more apparent. The food producers of America the farmers--are increasingly aware of the responsibility which is theirs. They have accepted that responsibility. The foes of Hitler need food--Food for Freedom. The farmers of the United States will provide that food--and provide it in abundance."

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Farmers are being urged when they sign farm plans in the Food for Freedom campaign to repair their farm machinery this fall and winter in order to avoid delays next year. Adequate metals are assured for repair parts, but the amount of new farm machinery which will be available is still questionable

Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs Rockefeller has announced the establishment of a Division of Agriculture in his office and the appointment of Dr. Earl N. Bressman, formerly Assistant Director in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, as Director of the new division. Primary objective of the new division will be the establishment and operation of the proposed Institute of Tropical Agriculture, long advocated by Vice President Wallace.

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The American Red Cross has announced plans to undertake its most extensive first aid program in history--training a nation-wide corps of civilian defense workers as instructors in wartime first aid. The Red Cross estimates the project will bring the number of first aid trainees to more than 1,000,000 for the coming year. The course will emphasize treatment of war gas cases, control of bleeding, transportation of the wounded, and other first aid problems now being experienced in bombed civilian centers of Europe and the Orient.

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The urgency of defense need for materials was brought home to the public when the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board laid down a policy that no new public or private construction may be undertaken with critical materials unless necessary for direct defense or health and safety of the people.

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In response to Britain's need for large quantities of dried eggs, 37 new egg drying plants will have been established by the first of the year. USDA officials figure that these new plants and the 16 which have been operating during the past few years can produce, by year around and continuous operation, about 145 million pounds of dried eggs a year. This should assure adequate supplies for export and domestic consumption.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

(Continued from page 1)

"We have mentioned so far only the activities of the regional office, but don't get the idea that field offices in this region are not participating. Panel discussions in some of the area and field offices have been even more interesting than those in the regional office. Bond and stamp sales are being conducted throughout all field offices. Many of the wives, husbands, and employees of the Service have participated in the Red Cross first aid course and are actively interested in the Civilian Defense Program. In fact, SCS men are chairmen of the local Civilian Defense committees in at least two of the towns in this region. Field men have urged farmer cooperators to collect and sell their scrap iron. The only reason we don't elaborate more on the activities of field offices is because of a lack of space.

"We are not expecting that the National Defense activities in Region six will exceed those of other regions, but we do think that one of the best ways to stimulate interest and to give these activities momentum is to tell others about what we are doing. We should like to hear what the other regions are doing. Probably they have some good ideas which we can adopt in this region."

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SCS employee participation percentages continue to climb in the Washington U. S. Defense Bonds and Stamp campaign. Latest reports from Chairman Herrell show the Service has 96.3 percent employee participation, which keeps SCS in the lead in the Department.

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H. C. Mesch, head of Safety and Health Section, addressed the Farm Safety Section of the 30th Annual National Safety Congress on Oct. 7 in Chicago. The subject of Mr. Mesch's talk was "Engineering as Applied to the Farm Accident Problem."

TRAINING IN REGION FOUR

Seven orientation courses for a total of 151 trainees have been held in the Western Gulf Region of the Soil Conservation Service, N. P. Stephenson, regional training officer, has reported.

Stephenson cited a trainee, Benjamin Westrate, as an example of the progress being made by the new professional Service personnel. Westrate, who was unfamiliar with agricultural conditions and practices in this region, made the following statement in his six-weeks report:

"My understanding of the organization, objectives, administration, and execution of the Soil Conservation Service has progressed from none at all at the beginning, to a period of complex, confused bewilderment, and has crystalized into a systematic orderly program of which I believe I now have a fair speaking and working knowledge."

Two additional orientation courses are to be set up for 59 more trainees who were recently recruited.

RECRUITMENT IN REGION ONE

The recruitment training school for Region One opened at Lancaster, Pa. After 12 days of field trips and meetings, twenty trainees in this class were assigned to CCC camps throughout the region for one month. Three of the original class of twenty trainees have been called into the Army under the Selective Service Act, and the remaining 17 trainees have now all been assigned to permanent headquarters. Written reports from the camp superintendents who were responsible for these trainees during their month's assignment to CCC camps say that the trainees have uniformly good prospects for future work with the SCS.

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Region 3 begins a recruitment training program on November 3.

FORMER SCS EMPLOYEES IN KEY DEFENSE WORK

A number of former SCS employees are in key positions in defense agencies. Here is what some of them are doing:

Shane MacCarthy is assistant to the Chief of Administrative Services in OEM.

John Clear, Charles Farris, and Howard Leach constitute a procedural group in OEM, developing manuals of instruction covering all business matters and organizing field offices for the various divisions of OEM. Clear and Farris were formerly of the Washington Budget and Finance Division and Leach of the Spartanburg Budget and Finance Division.

J. W. Abney of the Spartanburg Budget and Finance Division is Administrative Officer in the Office of the Housing Coordinator.

Bob Caviness from the Service Operations Division in Washington is Abney's Assistant.

Ralph Stohl, formerly of the Washington Budget and Finance Division, is Administrative Assistant in OCD.

Cecil Barnes, formerly of the Washington Budget and Finance Division, is Administrative Officer for the Coordinator of Information.

Nick Steichen, formerly of the Washington Budget and Finance Division, is Head of the Accounts Section in the Office of the Coordinator of Information.

Martin McHugh, formerly of the Washington Service Operations Division, is Head of the Service Operations Division in the Office of the Coordinator of Information.

Enar Olson, formerly of the Personnel Management Division in Washington, is Assistant Personnel Officer of OPM.

HERE'S NEW ANGLE FOR LAND USE CAPABILITY

The possibility that land use capability classes may serve as the basis for making an equitable distribution of farm land among a group of heirs is indicated by an incident that occurred in the Lower Chattahoochee soil conservation district in Georgia.

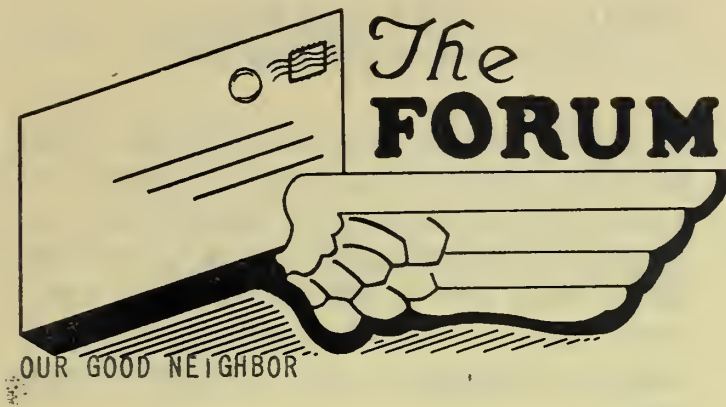
During a recent farmers' meeting an SCS technician was explaining land use capabilities to a group of farmers. A woman attending the meeting appeared to be especially interested. She later told the technician she was planning to divide her farm among a group of heirs and had been worried over how to make an equitable division.

While listening to his discussion, she said, the idea had occurred to her that by dividing the land on the basis of land use capability classes, rather than acreage, she could be sure that each heir would get a fair share of the estate.

TRAINING IN REGION TWO

Nearly 300 new field men have been employed in Region 2 since July 1, and an additional 100 to 150 P-1 vacancies are expected before December 31, according to D. V. Stapleton, chief of the regional Personnel Management Division. Training of new personnel to fill these vacancies will be one of the major responsibilities of technicians in Region 2 during the next 8 to 10 months.

Since the beginning of the new fiscal year, 200 new employees of P-1 and SP-4 grades have been given training in schools held in the regional office at Spartanburg, S. C., and at Birmingham, Ala., and Chatham, Va. Seventy-five more SP-4 trainees were placed in training in schools at Rome, Ga., and Salisbury, N. C., early in October, and another training school will be started in November for approximately the same number.



I am very flattered by your article in the Sept. 6 issue of Service News. My actual situation is that of a friendly spy rather than of an ambassador or a diplomat. And my friendly allies (SCS technicians) are extending to me and my country a helping hand which can only be classified as an A-1 example of an efficient and sympathetic good neighbor's policy. I am giving all I can but it is hard to repay and I will always be proud to owe something to my friends and colleagues in the SCS.

Going through Texas and Arkansas I had a chance, however, of meeting quite a crowd of soil surveyors, specially through Dr. Norton who surely is busy sowing the good seed for the next generation. In several trips through N. E. and Central Texas, I was struck by the remarkable ability of all soil surveyors. They can walk over the fields and record the facts as accurately as if they had electric eyes in their boots. That is absolutely true.

In Arkansas I saw mammoth 100 lb. watermelons almost too heavy to be stolen. I am told, however, that they would not make a hit at a Virginia grape show. I guess the Brazilian river which had so much fish that it couldn't hold water is beaten this time.

Paulo Cuba

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF S.C.

On page 8 of the Service News for September 6, 1941, a news item appears regarding the ten-point soil conservation

program of Region 7 being applied to CCC trucks in that region as a method of emphasizing the ten practices.

As Editor of the Service News you will, no doubt, be interested in the history of this ten-point program. The same ten points that are given in the Service News were emphasized as the ten-point program of the Service in Oklahoma beginning the spring of 1934 following the experience in the field and the weekly conferences that were held by the staff there during the fall and winter of 1933-34. This ten-point program was heralded all over the State of Oklahoma during the years 1934-35 through public lectures and newspaper articles. It was often referred to as the Ten Commandments of soil conservation.

Upon the reorganization of old region 7 consisting of most of the States of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska, this ten-point program was emphasized and painted on all of the CCC trucks of the soil conservation camps throughout those three states. Although Oklahoma is now part of Region 4, the technicians of that State are still emphasizing this same ten-point program I understand, and it is a pleasure to know by the Service News that these same ten points are being emphasized in Region 7 at the present time.

N. E. W.

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James L. Buckley has been designated by the Secretary as Acting Director of Personnel of the Department. Mr. Buckley was formerly a member of SCS, where he was in charge of classification and employment work.

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Sixty-six farmers near Shenandoah, Iowa, who are cooperating with the SCS, averaged \$348 more profit than 57 non-cooperating farmers in the same area, according to accurate farm records compiled by A. S. Thoreson, conservationist for the Service.

HOLT AND KINNAR ON ECUADOREAN MISSION

SCS will have two representatives on the recently appointed Ecuadorean Economic Resources Mission--Ernest G. Holt, chief of the Biology Division who will be in charge of the Mission, and Edwin R. Kinnear of the Project Plans Division who will be assistant leader.

Holt and Kinnear will sail for Ecuador on Nov. 7 to join the other members of the seven-man group organized at the request of the Ecuadorean government to study the agriculture of Ecuador. The Mission will make an exhaustive survey of the agricultural possibilities of the South American country, directing special attention to formulating production plans of products which may be imported by the United States. Mr. Holt and his aides will give special consideration to the feasibility of producing in quantity such articles as carpet wool, rubber, fibres, vegetable oils, and drug plants.

In addition to Holt and Kinnear, members of the Mission are John M. Cooper from the Office of Indian Affairs; Lee Hines, Bureau of Plant Industry; Benjamin J. Birdsall, United Fruit Company; Walter R. Schreiber and William A. Larner, Jr., of the USDA Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

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The girls in the Washington office played hostess recently to about 175 soldiers from Fort Belvoir at a dance in the USDA patio. The SCS girls invited girls from other bureaus to help them entertain. The music was good, the donuts and cider vanished quickly at intermission, and the soldiers said they had a swell time. Expenses were defrayed by contributions from the SCS staff.

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The regional conservators will come to Washington for their annual fall conference, Nov. 3 to 8.

PROJECT PLANS CHIEFS CONFER IN WASHINGTON

Chiefs of the Regional Project Plans Divisions were in Washington recently for a four-day conference to discuss the objectives of planning work in SCS, to study the methods and techniques of doing their jobs, and to consider the relation of project planning to other Service activities.

Prior to the conference, the field men had sent in some forty questions about their work which they wanted discussed. Chief Raymond H. Davis proved he could plan conferences as well as projects, and under his expert guidance most of the questions were thoroughly covered before the meetings adjourned.

The application of the data of project planning surveys to the formulation and justification of budget estimates received considerable attention at the round-table discussions. Perhaps the highlight of the meetings was the presentation and discussion by Region 5 representatives of the project planning survey of Montgomery County Soil Conservation District, Iowa, which illustrated the problems, methods, and benefits derived from planning studies. This material was subsequently presented to Dr. Bennett and a special group in the Chief's office.

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Several regions have reported they are busy with their U. S. Defense Bonds and Stamp sales campaign. So far, the Washington office has been notified that the following persons have been appointed regional chairmen of the campaign: Region 1, John R. Nolan; Region 2, Barbara B. Brown; Region 5, R. J. Lippolt; Region 6, Charles W. Townsend; Region 8, Robert V. Boyle; Region 9, John F. Bohler.

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SCS has asked Civil Service Commission to set up a new examination for assistant soil technologist, P-2 grade.

FIELD MEMORANDA

- 901-A Supplement to Field Memorandum SCS #901 (When surveying land for appraisal purposes, survey crews of Land Acquisition Division will designate corners of land by wooden stakes.)
- 1025 Monthly record of permits and agreements issued on Title III lands. (Form SCS-11 supersedes and replaces Form LU-PD 15)
- 477-D Letter of authorization for employment of firefighters. (Lists changes effective immediately to expedite LA employment of firefighters in emergencies.)
- 1026 Conservation of wrapping paper. (Use of wrapping paper should be held to minimum as this type of paper and materials used in its manufacture are needed for defense production.)
- 1023-A Cancelling previous field memoranda and other memoranda. (Lists additional memoranda to be cancelled and notes corrections for FM 1023.)
- 1027 Communication, postal, procedure for. (Only one carbon copy of letters addressed to any Washington office will be necessary hereafter.)
- 802-D Long distance telephone calls. (Request to eliminate unnecessary long distance telephone calls between travelers in the field and Washington and other offices.)
- 1028 Suspension of bulk mailings from December 10, 1941 to December 23, 1941, inclusive (Bulk mailing schedules should be arranged so that bulk materials may be withheld from the mail during Christmas season rush.)

(Continued in next column)

AMARILLO BUYS BONDS

USDA employees in Amarillo, Tex., have gone over the top in the purchase of defense bonds and stamps. In the recent sales drive the 464 USDA employees, out of a total population of 56,000, bought 20 percent of the defense bonds and stamps. The campaign was under the leadership of SCS employee Douglas Smith who is president of the local USDA club.

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Keen interest in the work program of SCS-CCC camps in the Pacific Northwest region was expressed recently by J. J. McEntee, CCC Director, who reviewed kodachrome pictures taken in the region by W. J. Mead, CCC Photographer. A. E. Victor, Assistant CCC Administrator for Region 9, discussed the work of the camps and its relationship to the SCS program. Assistant Director Charles H. Taylor and other members of the CCC director's staff were present at the showing.

1029 Communications, telegraphic: use of commercial facilities in lieu of Army and Navy radio nets. ("Same day messages" should be transmitted over commercial facilities because of heavy load on Army and Navy communications.)

1030 Assistance to the Corps of U. S. Army Engineers. (Army has accepted offer of assistance for revegetation around earthen dams, and cooperation will be carried out in accordance with the Chief's memorandum to regional conservators of June 19, 1941.)

1031 Obligating fiscal year appropriations. (Cites Comptroller General's letter of September 3 and USDA Regulation No. 3131 which set forth the requirement that an obligation is chargeable to the appropriation of the fiscal year during which the need arose and the liability was incurred.)

PRINTERS' INK

"Do You Know Your Conservation?" by Gordon K. Zimmerman in the October *Country Gentleman*.

"Old Dust Bowl Now a Garden of Green Fits Into Grassland Agricultural Program" in the September 15 issue of *The Kansas Stockman*.

"Farm Trapping in Houston County" by Thomas R. Evans, junior biologist at Caledonia, Minn., in the May *Conservation Volunteer*.

"A Minnesota Land Use Program" by L. E. Sawyer, chief of Region 5 Land Management Division, in the May *Conservation Volunteer*.

"Losses of Crippled Game Birds" by Urban C. Nelson, assistant soil conservationist at Fergus Falls, Minn., and Gustav Swanson, in the March *Conservation Volunteer*.

Pictures taken by photographer Jack G. James, depicting how enrollees from the CCC camp at Moscow, Idaho, helped a farmer harvest his crops, appear in the October 11 issue of *Happy Days*.

"Wildlife Borders--An Innovation in Farm Management" by Verne E. Davison, chief of the Biology Division at Spartanburg, S. C., in the October *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

"Native Vegetation as a Criterion for Determining Correct Range Management and Run off Characteristics of Grazing Lands" by R. R. Humphrey, associate range examiner at Spokane, Wash., and P. B. Lister in the October *Journal of Forestry*.

"Fence Good Conserver of Soil and Life" by P. F. Allan, biologist at Amarillo, Tex., in the Sept. 15 issue of *Western Farm Life*.

OFF THE PRESS

"Publications and Visual Information on Soil Conservation." Miscellaneous Publication No. 446.

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions on the West Tany Creek Demonstration Project, Kansas." by R. G. Dunmire. Erosion Survey No. 21.

"On The Level", a new pamphlet which tells in pictures the story of contour cultivation in conservation farming. The pamphlet, which was issued by the Soil Conservation Service, is available upon request through the regular channels.

"Soil Moisture Content and General Plant Growth Conditions of Eroded Soil as Influenced by Contour Furrowing"--a paper presented by Moras L. Shubert and J. M. Aikman, agents at Ames, Iowa, before the Iowa Academy of Science--has been reprinted from the Academy proceedings.

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The 1941 Minnesota legislature appropriated \$2,000 for the State Soil Conservation Committee to use in district work. It is the first year that a State appropriation has been provided for districts in Minnesota. Most of the money probably will go to district supervisors to pay expenses.

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Photographs of CCC enrollees engaged in soil conservation work were among those arranged on a panel in Director McEntee's office to give the Duke of Windsor a visual picture of the CCC's work program when the Duke recently made an official call at the Washington CCC headquarters.

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"Terrace System Planning to Reduce Point Rows" by E. C. Buie, agricultural engineer at Amarillo, Tex., appears in the September *Agricultural Engineering*.